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Discipline and Morale in the Armed Forces

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1. A new set of regulations for the organization of the Red Army has been introduced. It pertains to the relationship among soldiers, and their relationship to their officers. Not even the old Tourist Army was as "cruel" toward the soldier.
2. According to this new set of regulations, specific rights and privileges have been established for the officer corps, which has become the master of the body and soul of the soldier. Civilians, no matter what their lot or station, have been relegated to the gray end in social and economic life. This, of course, does not affect the party members, who enjoy the same privileges as officers of the armed forces.
3. In particular, officers have access to an unlimited quantity of goods. In principle their rations are the same as those of the ITR group, with certain special additions. They get additional ration cards which enable them to acquire seven times greater quantities of rationed goods. They are free to buy in special canteens at very low prices, and this raises their living standards far above any other in the USSR.
4. Officer pay is also very high. A doctor gets 500 rubles per month, a college professor 1000, and a colonel lieutenant also receives 1000. A civilian must buy his clothes out of his own pocket (at the utmost one suit of clothes per year), while officers receive more than once a year their whole uniform with boots, and pay a small token sum for it.
5. Officers and their families have special rest resorts with free service, which is performed by drafted soldier personnel.
6. Recent differences have been introduced in the relationship between soldier and officer. The so-called soldier councils have been abolished; these used to play an important role in the normalization of relationships, regardless of rank. The new regulations prescribe that every superior ranking enlisted man or officer has the right to punish his inferiors in rank. This punishment can, however, be meted out only to the common soldiers. Officers, especially higher ranking ones, are exempt from this except in cases of political transgressions or crimes.

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An officer may never shake hands with a soldier. A general may only shake hands with a colonel.

7. "The old Tsarist system of cadet schools for the children of officers has been reconstituted so as to prepare young men for military careers. Young children are sent to these schools so that they may be molded outside of civilian life. In other military schools officers' children have special privileges and priorities.
8. "In public places younger officers are not allowed to stand or smoke unless they have requested permission from the senior officer in the place. In trains and buses the soldier and younger officer must always get up and give his place to the senior. An officer is not allowed to carry revolvers or bags, so each one has the right to stop any passing soldier and order him to carry these. The officer in this case is not allowed to talk with the soldier, but must preserve a distance. Conversation between officers and men is forbidden except on service matters, because this could adversely affect discipline, according to the regulations.
9. "Duty in the armed services is as follows: Infantry, three years; cavalry, four; Artillery and Air Force, four; Navy five. After school all men physically fit and 18 must report for duty. College studies are permissible only after duty in the armed forces.
10. "The Red soldier is busy all day, following the example of the old Spartans. First he must be trained in politics, and must know that capitalism is the first and greatest enemy of the working man. Besides this he must also constantly remember that a new war is coming sooner or later, and that he must be prepared for it both physically and psychologically.
11. "During his whole period of duty the soldier is isolated from the outside world; leaves are not granted in principle, and correspondence with his family is strictly censored. This mode of life provokes many desertions, which have been especially numerous during the last few months. To stop this the armed forces have declared officially that the families of the deserters will be punished severely. Even this has not helped, and desertions are on the increase."

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